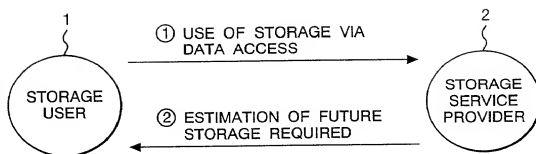
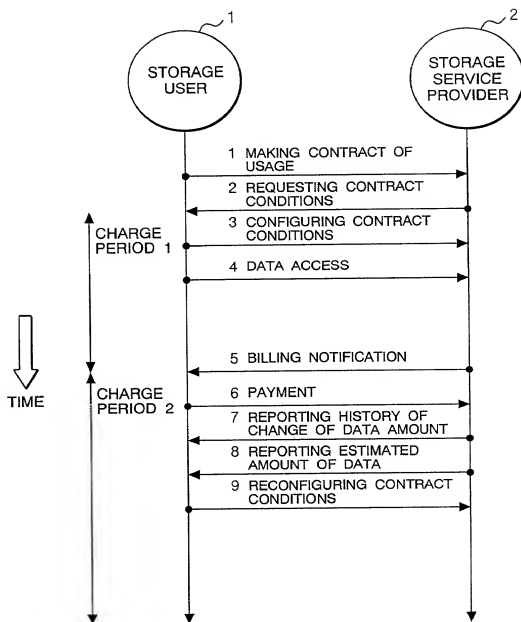


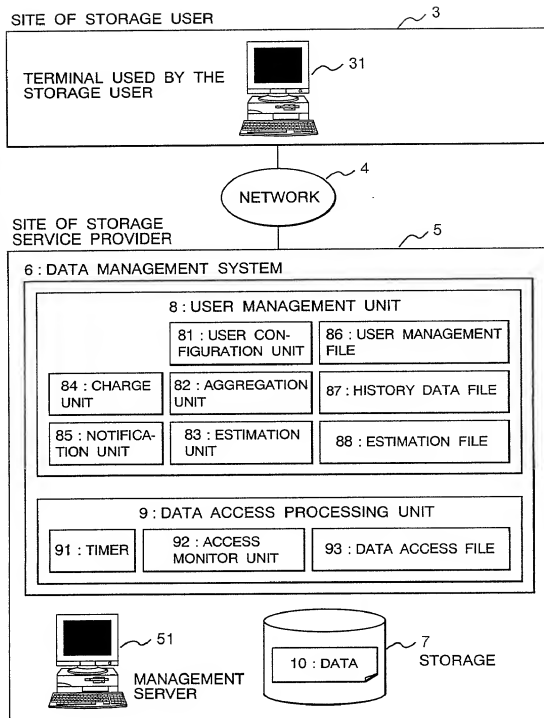
**FIG. 1**



**FIG. 2**



**FIG. 3**



**FIG. 4**

**93 : DATA ACCESS FILE**

| STORAGE<br>AREA | NAME OF<br>DATA | AMOUNT<br>OF DATA | ACCESS<br>FREQUENCY | USER<br>IDENQUENCY |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1               | 1               | 300GB             | 100TIMES            | A                  |
| 1               | 2               | 200GB             | 100TIMES            | B                  |
| 1               | 3               | 200GB             | 100TIMES            | C                  |
| 2               | 4               | 200GB             | 10TIMES             | D                  |
| :               | :               | :                 | :                   | :                  |

**FIG. 5****86 : USER MANAGEMENT FILE**

| USER IDENTIFIER | BILLING METHOD | AMOUNT CON-TRACTED | ESTIMATION CONTRACT | BILLING PERIOD | AMOUNT TO BE REPORTED | AMOUNT ESTIMATED |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| A               | FIXED          | 300GB              | YES                 | MONTHLY        | 200GB                 | 300GB            |
| B               | FIXED          | 200GB              | NO                  | MONTHLY        | 200GB                 | 500GB            |
| C               | SPECIFIC       | 30000 YEN          | YES                 | MONTHLY        | 30000 YEN             | 30000 YEN        |
| D               | SPECIFIC       | 20000 YEN          | NO                  | WEEKLY         | 10000 YEN             | 10000 YEN        |
| :               | :              | :                  | :                   | :              | :                     | :                |

**FIG. 6**

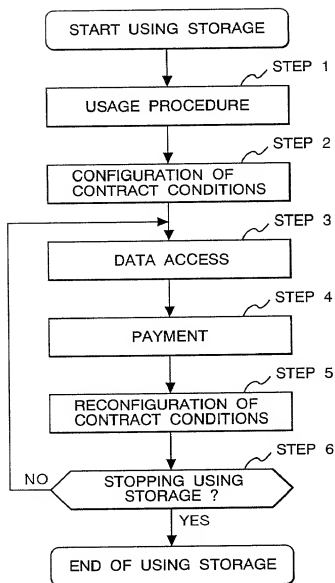
**87 : HISTORY DATA FILE**

| USER IDENTIFIER | DATA      | STORAGE AREA | NAME OF DATA | AMOUNT OF DATA |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| A               | 2000/01/1 | 1            | 1            | 100GB          |
| A               | 2000/01/2 | 1            | 1            | 100GB          |
| A               | 2000/01/3 | 1            | 1            | 110GB          |
| A               | 2000/01/4 | 1            | 1            | 115GB          |
| :               | :         | :            | :            | :              |

**FIG. 7****88 : ESTIMATION FILE**

| USER IDENTIFIER | APPROXIMATE FORMULA | DATA ESTIMATION FOR NEXT BILLING DATA | DATE THAT CONTRACTED STORAGE BECOMES FULL | DATE THAT AMOUNT GAINED THE NOTIFICATION AMOUNT |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| A               | $D=aT+b$            | 300GB                                 | 2001/02/15                                | 2001/02/10                                      |
| B               | $D=cT+d$            | 500GB                                 | 2001/12/07                                | 2001/12/07                                      |
| C               | $D=eT+g$            | 300GB                                 | 2001/03/20                                | 2001/02/15                                      |
| D               | $D=hT+i$            | 200GB                                 | 2001/07/12                                | 2001/05/03                                      |
| :               | :                   | :                                     | :   | :   |

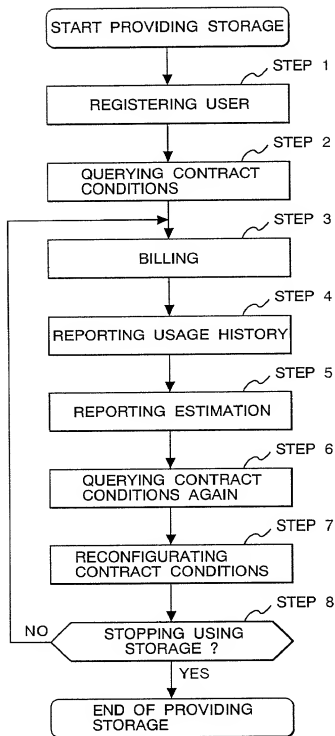
**FIG. 8**





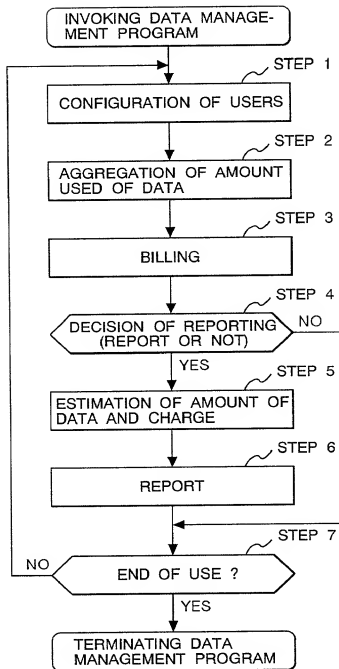
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**FIG. 9**

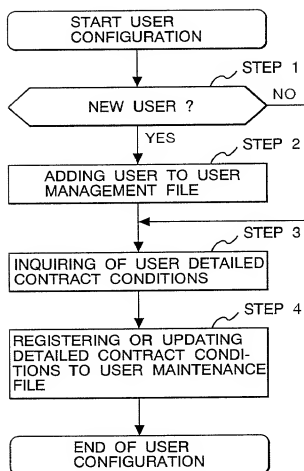


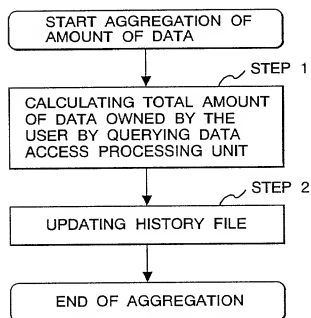
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**FIG. 10**

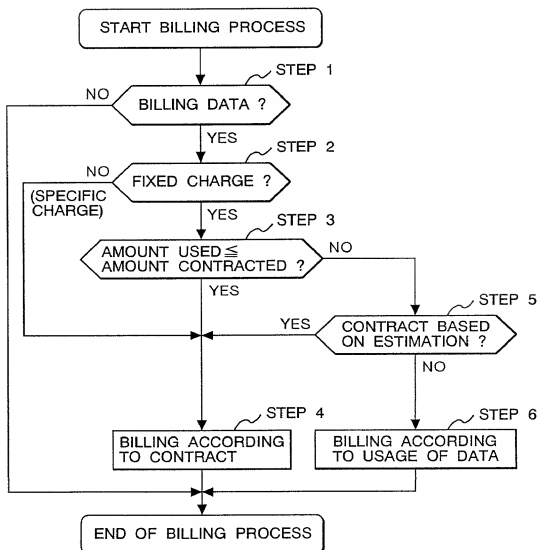


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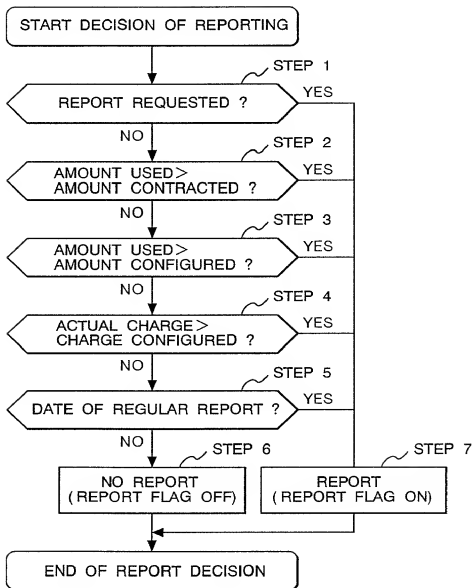
**FIG. 11**

**FIG. 12**

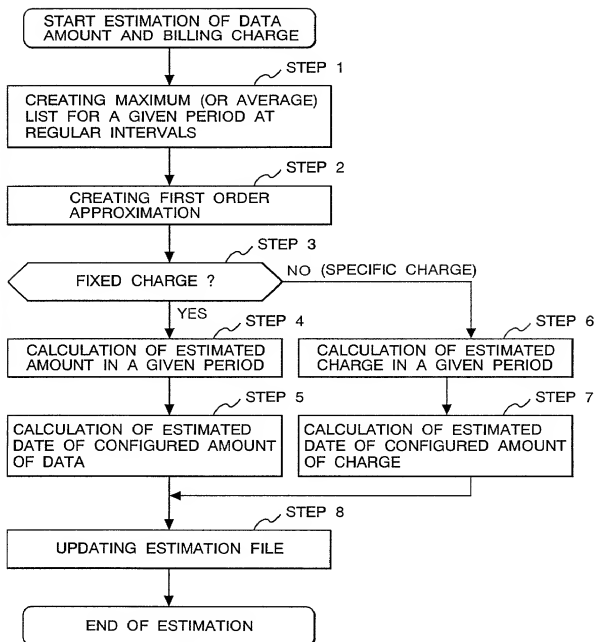
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**FIG. 13**

**FIG. 14**



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**FIG. 15**

**FIG. 16**

260

MENU 1
MENU 2
MENU 3
MENU 4

USER REGISTRATION

2601
2602

USER NAME
A

2603
2604
2605

BILLING METHOD
FIXED
SPECIFIC

2606
2607
2608

AMOUNT CONTRACTED
300GB
30000 YEN

2609
2610
2611

AMOUNT TO BE REPORTED
200GB
25000 YEN

2612
2613
2614

OPTION FOR EXCESS AMOUNT
AVAIL-  
ABLE
UNAVAIL-  
ABLE

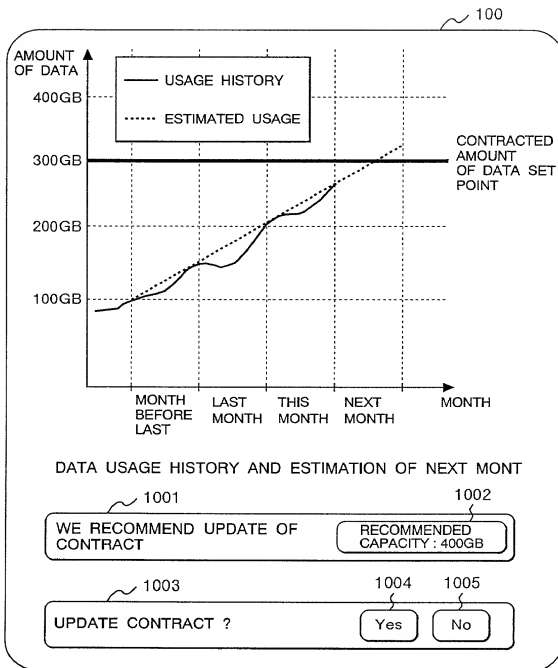
2615
2616
2617

TERMINATE CONFIGURATION ?
Yes
No



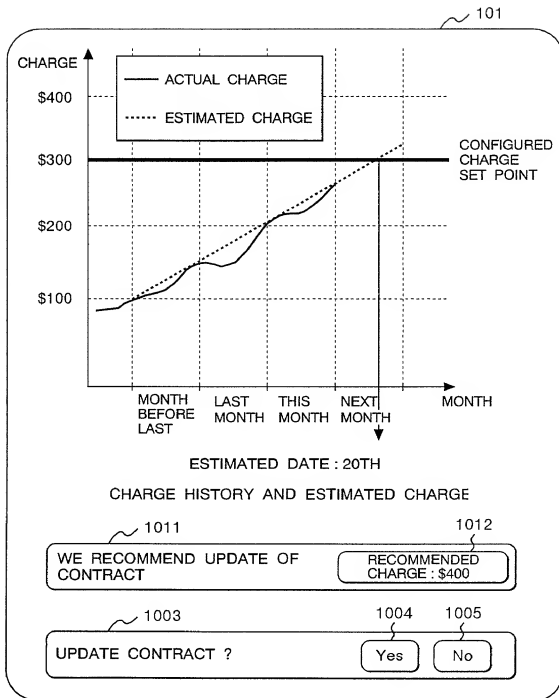
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**FIG. 17**

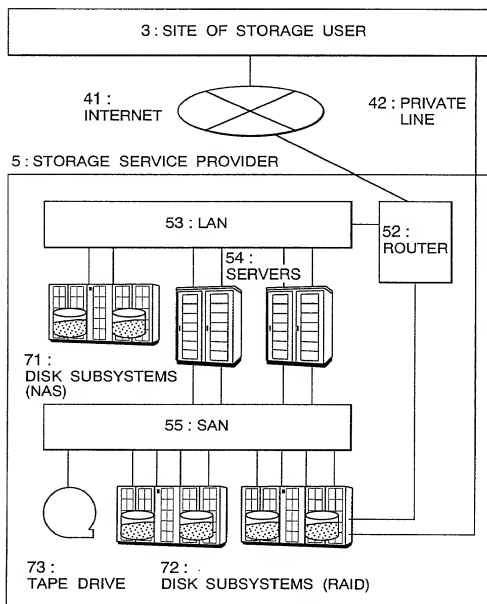


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**FIG. 18**



**FIG. 19**



**FIG. 20**

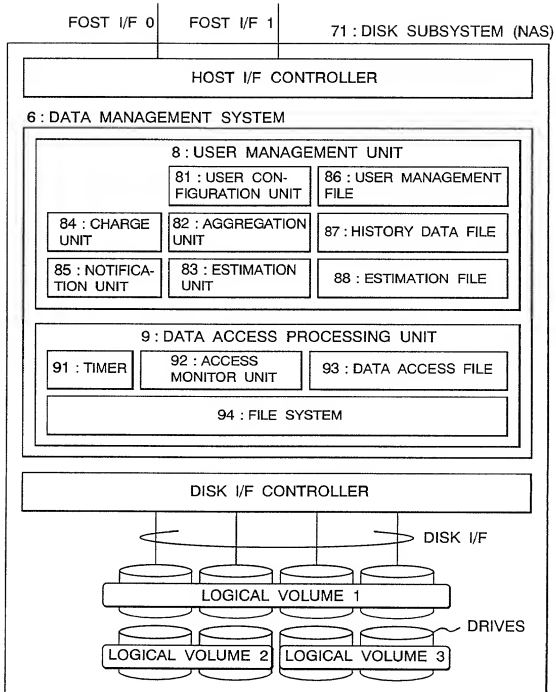
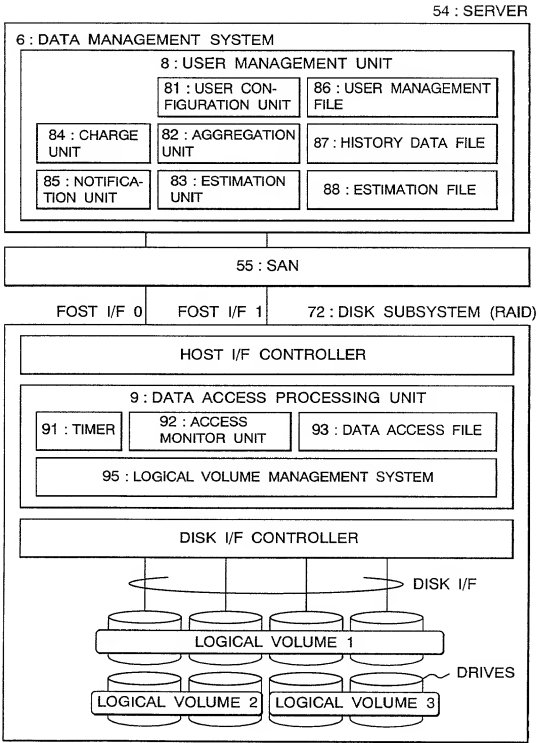
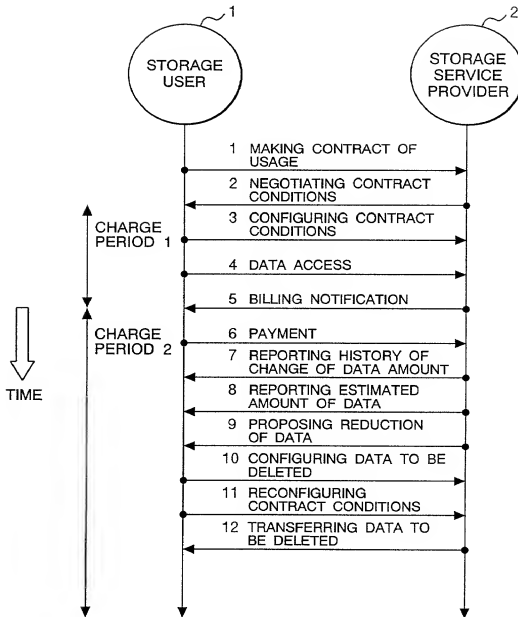
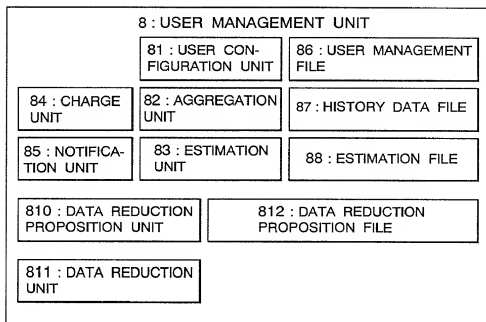


FIG. 21



**FIG. 22**

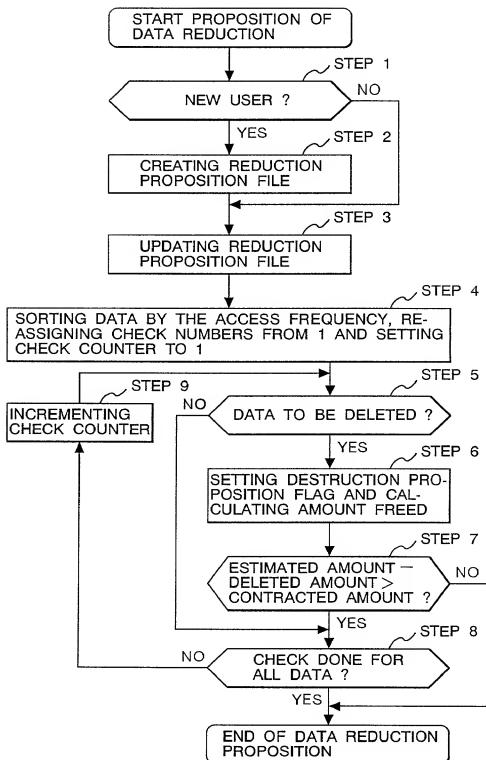


**FIG. 23**

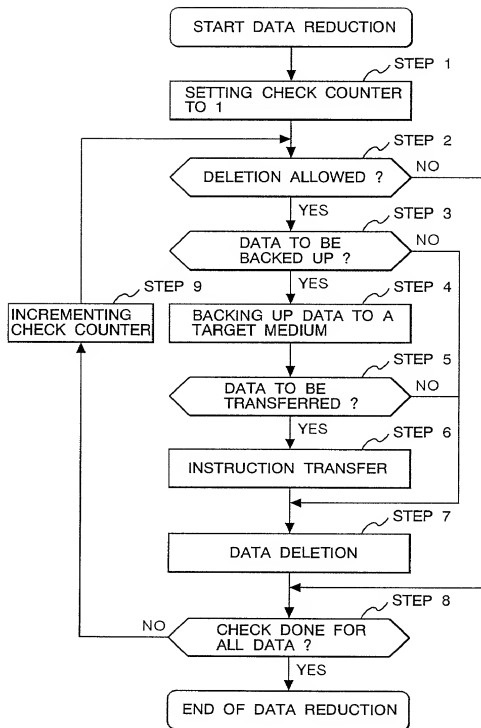
812:DATA REDUCTION PROPOSITION FILE

[illegible]



**FIG. 25**


**FIG. 26**



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FIG. 27

340 : DATA REDUCTION PROPOSITION DISPLAY

















 CLICK BUTTON TO SELECT ITEM TO BE DELETED

SELECT A BACKUP MEDIUM (TAPE OR CD-R)

341 : PROPOSITION LIST

| CHECK NUMBER | STORAGE AREA | NAME OF DATA | NON-DELETION OBJECT | DELETION PROPOSED | SUM AFTER DELETION |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1            | 1            | 1            | NON-DELETION        | —                 | 0GB                |
| 2            | 1            | 2            | DELETION            | PROPOSITION       | 100GB              |
| 3            | 1            | 3            | DELETION            | PROPOSITION       | 200GB              |
| 4            | 2            | 4            | DELETION            | —                 | 200GB              |
| :            | :            | :            | :                   | :                 | :                  |

342 : DELETION CONFIGURATION

| SET DELETION  | NON-DELETION OBJECT   | BACK-UP   | BACK-UP MEDIUM | TRANSFER DATA TO BE DELETED   |
|---|---|---|----------------|---|
|  |  |  |                |  |
|  |  |  |                |  |
|  |  |  | TAPE           |  |
|  |  |  |                |  |
| :   | :   | :   | :              | :   |

343

ACTUAL AMOUNT OF DATA USED =600GB

ESTIMATED AMOUNT IN A MONTH =750GB

PRESENTLY CONTRACTED AMOUNT =700GB

PROPOSED AMOUNT OF DATA =800GB

344

SUM OF DATA TO BE DELETED =200GB

ENTER DESIRED AMOUNT OF DATA

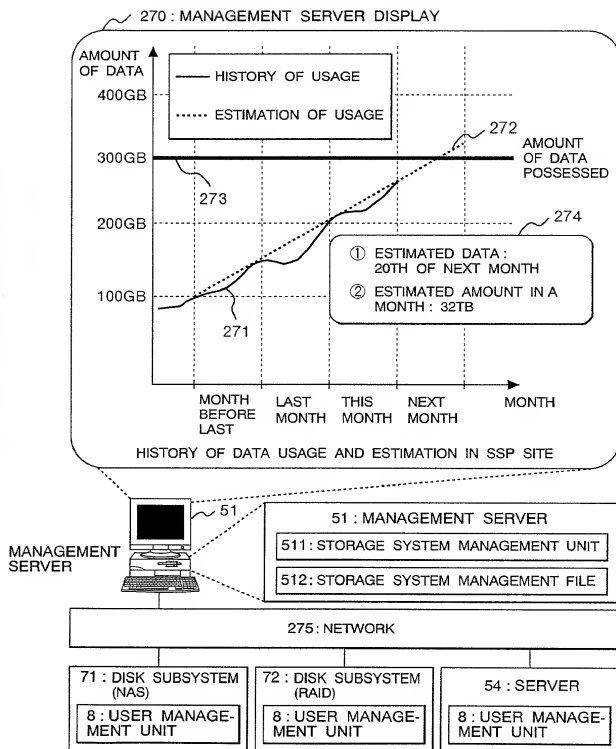
800GB

345

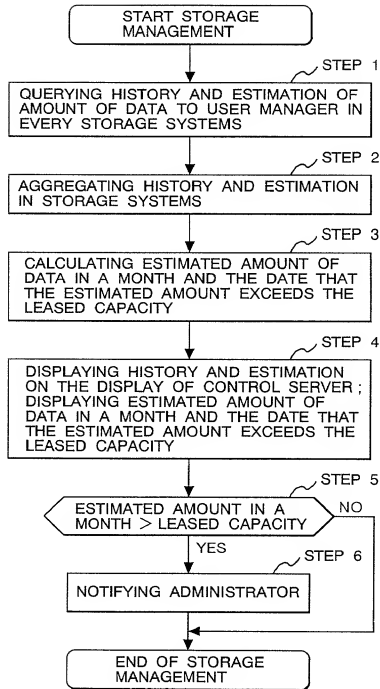
OK

346

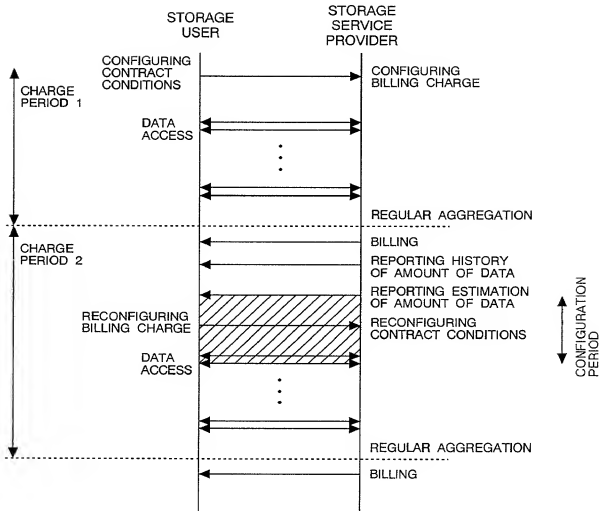
FIG. 28



09919930 18600001

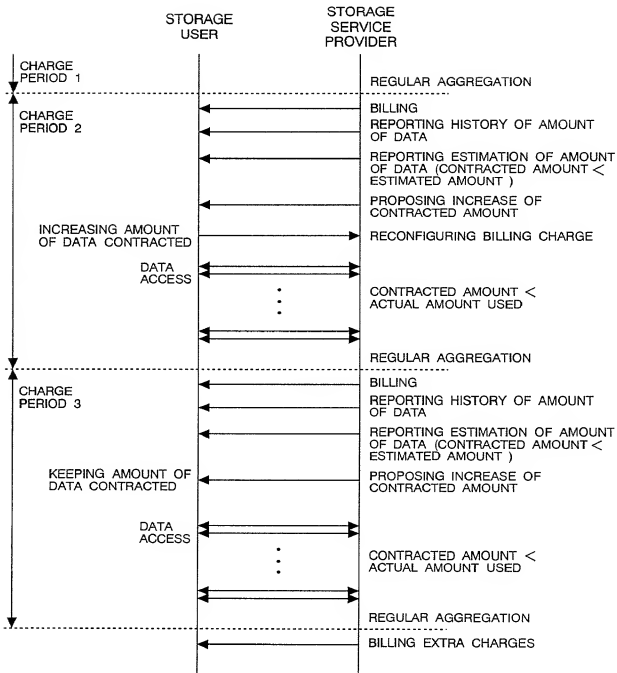


**FIG. 30**



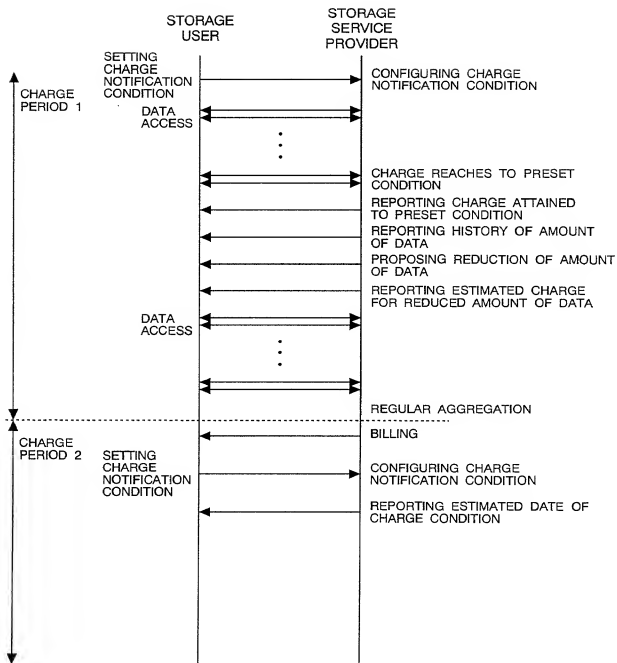
100



**FIG. 32**

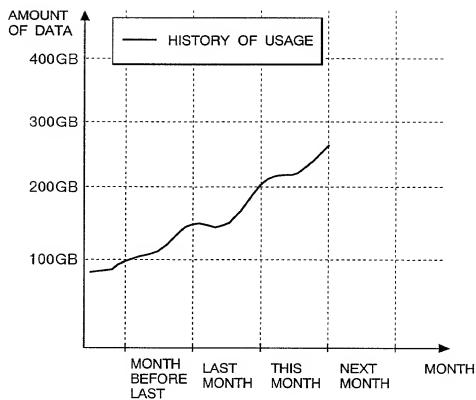


**FIG. 33**



**FIG. 34**

PRIOR ART



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
)  
KANAI et al. )  
)  
Application Number: To be assigned )  
)  
Filed: Concurrently herewith )  
)  
For: A SERVICE METHOD OF A RENTAL STORAGE )  
AND A RENTAL STORAGE SYSTEM )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

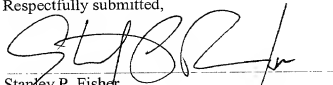
**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY  
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of April 16, 2001, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 2001-116435.

The certified copy of corresponding Japanese patent application 2001-116435 is submitted herewith. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Registration Number 24,344

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August 2, 2001

**JUAN CARLOS A. NUNEZ**  
Registration No. 84,672

**PATENT OFFICE**  
**JAPANESE GOVERNMENT**

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application as filed with this office.

Date of Application : April 16, 2001  
Application Number : Patent Application No. 2001-116435  
Applicant (s) : Hitachi, Ltd.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2001

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Kouzou OIKAWA  
Commissioner,  
Patent Office

Certificate No. 2001-3061063